

To Senator Lodge he wrote on June 24, 1908: "On every side I hear of the great success you made as Chairman . . . you rendered a great public service, and you also rendered me a personal service."

A letter which he wrote to Sir George Otto Trevelyan at this time—June 19, 1908—shows how deeply he had been thinking upon the subject of a third term. In many ways it is one of the most interesting of his many interesting

letters to this illustrious Englishman:

" . . . There is very much to be said in favor of the theory that the public has a right to demand as long service from any man who is doing good service as it thinks will be useful; and during the last year or two I have been rendered extremely uncomfortable both by the exultation of my foes over my announced intention to retire, and by the real uneasiness and chagrin felt by many good men because, as they believed, they were losing quite needlessly the leader in whom they trusted, and who they believed could bring to a successful conclusion certain struggles which they regarded as of vital concern to the national welfare. Moreover, it was of course impossible to foresee, and I did not foresee, when I made my public announcement of my intention, that the leadership I then possessed would continue (so far as I am able to tell) unbroken, as has actually been the case; and that the people who believed in me and trusted me and followed me would three or four years later still feel that I was the man of all others whom they wished to see President. Yet such I think has been the

case; and therefore, when I felt obliged to  
insist on retir-  
ing and abandoning the leadership, now and  
then I felt ugly  
qualms as to whether I was not refusing to do  
what I ought  
to do and abandoning great work on a mere  
fantastic point  
of honor.

" There are strong reasons why my course  
should be  
condemned; yet I think that the countervailing  
reasons are  
still stronger. Of course, when I spoke I had in  
view the  
precedent set by Washington and continued  
ever since,  
the precedent which recognizes the fact that  
as there in-